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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
2 October 1954

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Possibility of violence during the Brazilian  
elections on 3 October

25X1 [redacted] despatch of federal troops to various municipalities in the Brazilian states of Bahia and Goias is essentially a routine move made in accordance with provisions of the electoral code in preparation for the 3 October elections. At stake in these elections are all seats in the Chamber of Deputies and two thirds of the seats in the Senate, as well as the governorships of 11 important states. 25X1

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] NO Communist plans

A certain amount of violence has come to be expected in connection with any Brazilian election. In this case, the incidences may be higher than usual because of the political readjustments and realignments occasioned by the suicide on 24 August of President Getulio Vargas. This event not only fanned popular passions but left a power vacuum to be exploited by hopefuls for the 1955 presidential election. It also signalled a major effort on the part of Vargas' Labor Party and the Communist Party to gain and hold ground.

However, the increasing prestige of the new Café Filho administration and continued strong military backing for the new president make it unlikely that any disturbances will get out of hand. The prompt quelling of disturbances in the more remote areas of the larger states may present difficulties, but the military is considered capable of either maintaining or restoring order in all cases.

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[redacted] 25X1  
Acting Assistant Director  
Current Intelligence

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